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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Energy Secretary Abraham, EPA Administrator Whitman Launch Fuel Economy Guides for Model Year 2002

*Easy-to-use guides detail automobile fuel efficiency, emissions and
safety information for consumers*

WASHINGTON, DC - Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, surrounded by new models of highly fuel-efficient automobiles, today announced fuel economy leaders for 2002 as they unveiled the newest edition of the web-based Fuel Economy Guide, www.fueleconomy.gov. Today's event was one in a series of National Energy Awareness Month observances.

"Reducing our nation's dependence on imported oil is crucial to our national energy security - now more than ever before," said Secretary Abraham. "Conserving fuel by driving a more efficient vehicle is one way each of us can do our part. With the new Fuel Economy Guide, car-buyers have the information they need to help select the safest, cleanest, and most fuel-efficient vehicle to meet their needs."

"In addition to helping conserve energy, consumers who purchase these fuel-efficient cars and trucks are helping to protect the environment as well," said Administrator Whitman. "In fact, choosing the most efficient vehicle within a class prevents at least 15 tons of harmful emissions over the lifetime of the vehicle."

The new web site, produced in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), features interactive fuel economy, emissions, and safety data for model year 2002 vehicles, as well as gas pricing information and fuel-saving tips for drivers who are looking to go the extra mile.

For the third year in a row, hybrid-electric vehicles, which use a smaller gasoline engine and a self-charging electric motor/generator, were rated best in fuel efficiency. Consumers using www.fueleconomy.gov can find information about vehicles in all classes, from small two-seaters and compact cars to sport utility vehicles (SUVs), pickup trucks, and minivans. The web site allows side-by-side comparisons of up to three vehicles at a time and includes vehicle-specific fuel economy data and an annual fuel cost calculator for new and used vehicles dating back to 1985. Search mechanisms also allow users to find vehicles according to manufacturer, class, and miles per gallon.

Printed copies of the guide will be available later this fall at new car dealerships, public libraries, and credit unions nationwide.

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Secretary Abraham and Administrator Whitman were joined by executives representing the following top performers in each of their vehicle classes:

Daimler/Chrysler (minivan)

Chrysler Town & Country 2WD
4-speed automatic transmission
3.3 Liter, 6 Cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 18/24

Ford (sport utility vehicle)

Ford Escape 2WD
5-speed manual transmission
2.0 Liter, 4 Cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 23/27

General Motors (pickup truck)

Chevy S10 2WD Pickup Truck
5-speed manual transmission
2.2 Liter, 4 Cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 22/28

Honda (two seater car)

Honda Insight (hybrid-electric vehicle)
automatic--Continuously Variable Transmission
1.0 Liter, 3 Cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 57/56

Toyota (compact car)

Toyota Prius (hybrid-electric vehicle)
automatic--Electronically Controlled Variable Transmission
1.5 Liter, 4 Cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 52/45

Volkswagen (compact car)

VW New Beetle Diesel
5-speed manual transmission
1.9 Liter, 4 cylinder engine
City/Highway miles per gallon = 42/49

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